(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Steps have been initiated for obtaining financial assistance from the U. S. International Development Agency for pollution control projects. The details have not been finalised.

Title Deeds for those occupying the Reserve Forest Land

1356. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been made by the Government of Kerala for issuing title deeds for those occupying the reserve forest land;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction in regard thereto; and

(c) the reason for the delay in issuing title deeds for those, cleared by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Kerala State Government have sent a proposal for diversion of 28588.159 ha. forest land for regularisation of pre 1-1-1977 encroachments in five districts of Kerala, namely Idukki, Ernakulam, Kollan, Pathannamthitta and Trissur.

(b) and (c) After Examination of the proposal, certain essential details found lacking in the proposal were sought from Kerala State Government on 2-4-92. The proposal has been rejected for non-furnishing of information.

Extension of Tigers

1357. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tiger is likely to extinct by next century;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government propose to take to preserve them in the country;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the demand for tiger bones which are widely used for medicinal purposes in China and throughout South East Asia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir. In view of continuance of conservation efforts of Tiger, there is no such danger.

(c) and (d) There are reports about demand for Tiger bones for medicinal purposes in some countries of Asia but not with full details.

Biosphere Reserve Programme

1358. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Biosphere Reserve Programme;

(b) what is the amount spent annually on this programme; and

(c) what are its future plans for next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Biosphere Reserve Programme was launched in the Seventh Plan period. The main objectives of this Programe are to conserve the diversity and genetic integrity of plants, animals and micro-organisms; to promote scientific research on ecology, conservation and other environmental aspects; to provide facilities for education awareness and training; and effective participation of the people. Since the launch of the Programme, seven Biosphere Reserves have been set up. These are Nilgiri (Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka) Nanda Devi (U.P.) Sunderbans (West Bengal), Nokrek (Meghalaya), Great Nicobar (A & N Islands), Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu) and Manas (Assam).

The main activities undertaken during the Seventh Plan period were survey and demarcation, preparation of management action plans aimed at promoting protection eco-regeneration, education and awarene research projects, etc. for each biosphe reserve which has been established. The to